

BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE
MINUTES
Council Meeting: April 13, 2021
Live Meeting – Council Chambers



- **Roll Call:**
Present: Mr. Dunn
Mr. Flannery
Mr. Gill
Mrs. Miller
Mrs. Tessaro
Mr. Mikulich
Mayor Drewnowski

Also Present: Borough Manager Leone, and Solicitor Start via phone call.

Absent: Mr. Cafarelli, Chris Suehr - Nira

I. Invocation – Mrs. Barb Costa, Trinity School for Ministry

II. Pledge of Allegiance

- Moment of silence for former Police Chief Mark Romutis who passed away one year ago.
- Mr. Mikulich asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Joann Iorfido, mother of Tina Miller and former Council woman and worked in many ways for this Borough, who recently passed away.

III. Presentations –None

Mr. Mikulich commented that Council had an executive session where they discussed issued about Police contracts, Police Chief contract, Police hiring and firing, Heart & Soul Directors.

IV. Public Comment on/off Agenda Items (5 minutes per speaker)

Mrs. Boykins talked about street sweeping on 11th St. – wants explained what courtesy street sweeping is and she wants her street swept. Mr. Leone explained that the other side of the street is permanently no parking (yellow line) – they have to put up signs that would allow parking on the yellow line on sweeping days only. It's a process and we are working on it.

Ann Bacher – 956 Beaver Rd – 4th Tuesday of every month there is a Zoom Chat with our Police Chief – called “Chat Back” can find it on FaceBook Community – but spelled Commun1ty.

Barb Costa – 1320 Church St – spoke of experience of Ryan Cecil, an older student at the School of Ministry. She asked that they give him special consideration for the Tree Commission.

Eleanor Sweed – 1113 Beaver Rd – owns business 1513 Duss Ave – she wanted to thank whoever helped her get her occupancy permits for her business and she will be having a Grand Opening on April 24th . Mr. Mikulich congratulated her on opening her business.

Stan Williamson – 1st Baptist Church is giving free food away on Thursday – Friday they serve hot lunches.

Beth DeVincent - 935 Maplewood Ave – planning a meet and greet all political canidates event

Mr. Mikulich states that item H. is being deleted at this time from our Agenda and our solicitor Mr. McCreary to go back to the police department for an early retirement window.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes – March 9th, 2021.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

VI. Approval to ratify and pay the Bills and Expenses:

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Gill had a question about a few bills. Mr. Leone answered his questions. Mrs. Tessaro asked about Turnkey Tax bill – if it was cost effective, how much are they collecting for the Borough. Mr. Leone commented that is something that he is looking into currently. Mr. Mikulich commented that we need to collect the delinquent amounts.

1. General Fund	Unpaid: \$94,793.84	Paid: \$40,339.30
2. Grants / Special Project Fund	Unpaid: \$858.74	
3. Recreation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
4. Escrow Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
5. Police Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
6. Service Employees Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
7. Firemen’s Pension Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
8. Drug Investigation Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	
9. Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund	Unpaid: \$0.00	

VII. Consent Agenda

Those matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and are not expected to require further review or discussion. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Motion to approve 1 Items listed on the Consent Agenda.

1. Borough Financial Report - acknowledge receipt of the Borough Treasurer’s Report.
All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

April 13, 2021

Marilyn Sheleheda - Treasurer

General Fund Analysis

\$814,099.41	General Fund Bank Account Balance as of:	-April 13, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$238,393.94	All (including todays checks) Outstanding Checks as of:	-April 13, 2021 -3:00 pm
\$575,705.47	Available Balance as of:	-April 13, 2021 -3:00 pm

General Fund Bank Summary:	<i>Totals that cleared the bank are as follows:</i>	
	<i>Deposits:</i>	\$668,594.03
	<i>Debits:</i>	\$289,811.20
	<i>-which include the following:</i>	
	<u>64</u> <i>Checks & Debits</i>	\$126,935.76
<u>2</u> <i>Payroll (s)</i>	\$162,875.44	

Other Fund Balances as of April 13, 2021 3:00 pm	
201.01	Ambridge Bicentennial 2024 Fund.
\$332.93	Ambridge Borough Drug Investigation Fund
\$13,502.44	Ambridge Fire Apparatus Replacement Fund
\$174,730.53	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$24,417.49	Grants/Special Funds
\$2,794.19	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$35,871.96	Recreation Fund
\$27,753.48	Sinking Fund
\$279,604.03	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

IX: New Business

A-1. Consider action to approve Resolution # 2021-03 --5-year Chief of Police employment Contract as recommended by the Committee.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Gill suggested that the chief contract should be 3 years, because of the shortage of police officers. Mrs. Miller said the Borough tried a few years ago to consolidate with Baden and Harmony and no one was interested. Mr. Gill stated because of the shortage, it might be worth another look. Mr. Mikulich stated that should we ever consolidate the police chief's contract would be null and void. There would be a separate board that would decide and hire police officers and police chiefs. This is something to look into and Mr. Mikulich is behind this idea.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y*		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

**Mr. Gill's Yes vote if the contract would be null & void if we consolidate.*

A-2. Consider action to approve Chief DeLuca's contact with corrections.

Mr. Mikulich stated terms in the contract about his position and the vehicle.

If the vehicle is needed in the Borough- the vehicle stays in the Borough. (Section 7H)

Motion made by Mr. Flannery with corrections, seconded by Mrs. Miller

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	N*		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

**Mr. Gill's No vote is only the part about the police vehicle.*

B. Consider action to Appoint Ryan Cecil to the Shade Tree Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

C. Consider action to hire Dan Pritchett as both a Part -Time Police Officer, and as the Part-Time Parking Enforcement Officer @12.50 per hour as recommended by Chief Deluca.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

D. Consider action to approve a 2 lot sub-division for the MZP Kiln Services Plan of Lots as reviewed and recommended by Beaver County Planning Commission, the Ambridge Borough Planning Commission, and the Borough Engineer.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

E. Consider action to hire Nicholas DeFrancisco as the Heart and Soul Project Coordinator as a subcontracted employee at an hour rate of \$16.00 per hour with an average of 20 hours per week for a 1-year contract with a possible 6 month extension.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	N*
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	N		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

**Mrs. Tessaro's vote No because she just received these resumes and hasn't had time to review them.*

F. Consider action to approve contract with Midnight Blue to upgrade Borough phone system for a 5-year contract at \$819.56 per month as recommended by the Borough Manager.

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Flannery.

Question by Mrs. Tessaro about with the current phone would work with this system.

Mr. Leone explained that the new technology will enhance the current system.

If he is not in the office anyone can get in touch with him via email instead of waiting for the next day to listen to his voicemail. Primary reason for this new system is residents can be channeled to the right department instead of funneling thru the front office.

Mr. Mikulich commented that the Council Chambers should have a phone as well to help with meetings. The Veterans Office will also be put on this system.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

G. Consider action to approve contract with Mobilize 360 to upgrade Borough Website and provide for the development of a new Borough App as recommend by the Borough Manager.

Motion made Mr. Gill, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Mr. Leone explained what this would do for the Borough. Our current website is almost 20 years old and is outdated. We would like to make more phone app user friendly. Technology will really help with complaints to the Borough. The cost to re-do a website is over \$9,000.00 and to get an app for your phone is over \$4,500.00 - it will cost the Borough less than \$2,000.00.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

H. Deleted from the Agenda

I. Consider action to authorize Attorney McCreary to negotiate an Early Retirement Package for members of the Police Union.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

J. Consider action to hire 3 new Full-Time Police Officers: (Correction 2 not 3 officers)

Motion made by Mrs. Miller to hire 2 police officers, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.
 Question by Mr. Gill – when they would start. Chief DeLuca – suggested pay period.
 Mr. Leone suggested to make them full time as of May 3rd.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

Motion to hire Austin Turner to start May 3, 2021 made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

Motion to hire Josh Causer to start May 3, 2021 made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

K. Consider action to hire 1 Full-Time Fire Fighter, Mr. Daniel Caul.

Motion made by Mrs. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

L. Consider action to permit the use of the Fire Station for Fire Fighter graduation on May 8th at Noon.

Mr. Mikulich commented that the Fire Station would only be used in case of rain. This for people that graduate Firefighter 1 and 2. It will be at the 911 Center but in case of rain they would like to use the Fire Station.

Motion made by Mrs. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

M. Consider action to authorize PUSH Beaver County the opportunity to host their annual Super-Hero 5K race in the Borough of Ambridge on September 17th or 18th – Route still to be determined.

Mr. Leone explained what this entails. Mr. Mikulich explained this is only to approve this event if it takes place.

Motion made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

N. Motion to write the Beaver County Commissioners a letter to remind them that the Ambridge-Aliquippa Bridge aging and needs attention made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

O. Motion made by Mr. Gill to get in touch with Mr. Michael Foreman from DCED to begin the process of a study for Police Consolidation, seconded by Mr. Mikulich.

Mr. Mikulich explained the process in detail. Questions were posed to Chief DeLuca and he answered. Mr. Leone commented that consolidation is not always about the money, but also to insure the sustainability of police protection.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

Committee Reports

Public Safety Committee – Mr. Flannery

Meeting date is in the process.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Drewnowski

He encouraged everyone to see what the police officers did to honor the late chief Mark Romutis in front of the Police Station. He also talked about the drug bust on 6th and Duss Ave. Police Chief DeLuca commented about the drug bust.

Code Committee – Mrs. Tessaro

Meeting date is being talked about beginning of May and reminded everyone that trash pickup is Mondays – have trash out by 6am Monday mornings.

Mrs. Miller commented that trash company not picking up trash is frustrating.

Mrs. Tessaro – talked about Crime Watch meeting that they would like to use the new 5th/Merchant St. Park to have their movies in the Park.

Motion to permit Crime Watch the use of the 5th St./Merchant St. Park for movies.

Motion made by Mr. Gill, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

Mr. Mikulich asked Council for a motion to permit a American Legion to hold a service on Memorial Day to honor the Veterans in PJ Caul Park –

Motion to made by Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

Public Works Committee – Mr. Cafarelli

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Miller

Meeting being scheduled. She briefly spoke of the benches in the 8th St Park being in terrible shape and we had them removed.

Mr. Dunn commented about the bench for Froggy by the Ice Cream Shop on 4th and Merchant. Mr. Leone commented that Attorney Taylor has purchased an additional plaque to be added to Mr. Taylor’s bench.

Engineer’s Report - Christopher Suehr – P.E.

1. Merchant Street (and Municipal Lots) Resurfacing(# 02-226-83)

- I have not yet checked on pavement cracking reported by Mr. Gill at last Council meeting. Will take a look at condition and advise Borough ASAP.

2. MZP Kiln Services Plan of Lots No. 1 (# 02-239-83)

- Received review comments from County Planning Commission. One minor revision was needed to County Approval language.
- Applicant made revision and provided Final Plan for Recording. I have printed copies for the Borough for signatures and return to Applicant for recording.

3. FY 2021 CDBG Application

- Provided Manager with updated budget estimate for Melrose Avenue Municipal Parking Lots Renovations.

Miscellaneous:

- Added storm sewers from Panek Park (sketched by Public Works) to add to the MS4 System Mapping.

Pending:

VIII. Official Reports

Motion to accept Official Reports.

Motion made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Miller.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Absent		Mrs. Miller	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mrs. Tessaro	Y
Mr. Flannery	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Gill	Y		Mayor Drewnowski	

Motion Carried.

IX. Other Unfinished Business

Mrs. Tessaro spoke to last meeting we talked about workshop meetings. Mr. Leone stated he has not advertised for that meeting yet because of several additional costs. Personally, he suggested that the committees would meet more often instead. Mr. Mikulich commented that if any Council person has an issue or question, you should contact the Boro Manager so that he can solve the problem then bring it to the Council meeting.

X. Adjournment-

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Flannery, seconded by Mrs. Tessaro.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING OF BOROUGH COUNCIL: Regular Meeting: **May 11th, 2021 – 6:30PM**